Amendment to the Drawings

The two Attached sheets of Drawings are replacement for the informal drawings filed with this case. No changes have been made to the content drawings or to the reference number thereof, however, some of the reference numbers and broken-away portions have been moved in order to present the drawings.

Attachment: Replaced Sheets (2)
Replacement Sheets (2)

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Office action dated September 27, 2005, the Examiner objected to the Specification as containing underlining. The Examiner objected to the drawings, and specifically Fig. 4, thereof, as not correctly showing the invention. The Examiner Rejected claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2d paragraph, as being indefinite for much the same reasons as the objection to the drawings, and because the Examiner did not understand Applicant's phraseology. Claim 1-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S. C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U. S. Patent No. 2,257,025 to Schuster. Claim 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over '025.

In the Specification, page 5 is amended to change the brief description of Fig. 4; page 8 is amended to correct a typographical error.

In the Claims, claim 1 is amended to include the limitations of originally filed claim 3, which is cancelled, and further amended to overcome the 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2d paragraph rejection applied to claim 3.. Claim 6 has been amended to overcome a 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2d paragraph rejection. New claims 8-13 are presented.

New drawings are provided in the hopes that these drawings more clearly present the invention. No new matter is provided by these drawings, which are simply formalized representations of the drawings as originally filed.

The Invention

The invention, as described in the Specification, provides an easily replaceable, resilient cover for a veneer clipper anvil roll. An anvil roll has a known outside diameter and a known length. An elongate, tubular, cylindrical armature has an inside diameter greater than the

anvil roll's surface's known diameter and includes perforations through the surface thereof. A sleeve is formed over the armature, and sleeve material extends into and through the perforations in the armature. This structure provides a non-bonding resistance slide-on/slide-off fitment of the armature-stabilized sleeve over the anvil roll.

The Applied Art

A single reference is applied: U. S. Patent No. 2,257,025 of Schuster, which describes a perforated cylindrical structure having opening through the wall thereof, and provides a method for forming a rubber sleeve thereover, wherein the sleeve is formed on the outside and inside of the cylindrical structure. The elastomeric-coated cylindrical structure is carried on a shaft and is supported thereon by end plates.

The Specification

The Examiner objected to the Specification as containing underlining. No specifics were provided. Thus, as best understood by Applicant, the underlining must be those for the section headings, *e.g.*, Description of the Drawings. Applicant and the undersigned understand that these underlining will not appear in the printed publication, as does virtually every other member of the U. S. Patent and Trademark Office staff. The Examiner's reference to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121 is noted, but does not preclude underlined headings in the Specification. The undersigned has been drafting patent application in this form for over twenty years, and has never received an objection in this form. Unless the Examiner can provide a specific reference to a section of 35 U.S.C., 37 C.F.R., or the MPEP which precludes submission of a Specification in this form, the Objection must be withdrawn.

The Drawings

The Examiner's objection to the drawings is not well taken, however, this may be the result of the presentation of the scanned drawings to the Examiner, although the images appear clearly when retrieved by the undersigned on Private PAIR. It appears to be the Examiner's contention that an end view of the anvil roll with the armature and sleeve mounted thereon would render the inner portion of the sleeve somehow invisible because of sleeve deformation once the armature is mounted on the anvil roll, and further, that the representation of A_O and A_i is not accurate. This is not correct. A_O and A_i are depicted, variously in solid and broken lines, depending on the presence of retaining ring 50, which is secured to anvil roll 12 by bolts 52. The concept of "ring" should indicate that this is an annular structure, rather than a disc-like structure, thus the inner portion of the ring is wasted, and the end of anvil roll 12 is visible, as indicated by the vertical surface lines in the figure. As stated in numerous places in the Specification, The inner diameter of the armature is greater than the outer diameter of the anvil roll (A_i > 12b). Thus, when the armature/sleeve is mounted on the anvil roll, there will be a gap between the armature inner diameter and the anvil roll outer diameter, which gap is fill by that portion of sleeve material which extends into and through the perforations. Thus, S_i is quite visible in the cut-away portions of Fig. 4, and, while obviously compressed from that diameter of S_i for the armature/sleeve when not mounted on an anvil roll (which dimension is nowhere shown), S_i is still clearly visible in Fig. 4, which is an accurate representation of the invention. A_O and A_i are also properly represented in the figure. The description of Fig. 4 has been amended to clarify that portions of the drawing is broken away to show detail, although it is believed that this

is evident from the original representation of Fig. 4. The Objection to Fig. 4 should be withdrawn.

The 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2d paragraph Claim Rejection

The rejection to the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2d paragraph make little sense. The Examiner contends that:

> When the sleeve is mounted on the armature, the inner portion of the sleeve will deform [which is correct] and diameter of portions of inside surface of the sleeve will be substantially equal to A_O [which is wrong - it will be close to, but less than A_i] and other portions will extend through perforations, which will be substantially equal to A_i but not S_i. [which is again wrong]

The Examiner is correct that, when mounted, the inner portion of the sleeve material will compress, however, it does not cease to exist, as would be the case were $12d \approx A_i$, which seems to be the Examiner's analysis throughout this Office action. Simply put:

$$S_O > S_N > A_O > A_i > S_i > 12d$$

The only way that the inside surface of the sleeve can be substantially equal to A_O is for the sleeve material extending through the perforations to be fully compressed, however, this also requires that A_i be substantially equal to the outer diameter to of the anvil roll, which is simply not the case. The first element of claim 1, as originally filed, requires that the cylindrical structure have ID and OD which are both larger than the anvil roll ID. The Examiner seems to be ignoring this limitation. The examples given in the Specification provide for a difference of about one-quarter inch between the anvil roll OD and the armature ID - which provides a clearance of approximately one-eighth inch between the anvil roll OD and the armature ID, which one-eighth inch is filled with sleeve material. Thus, the 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2d paragraph rejection of claim 1 should be

withdrawn.

Claim 3 has been incorporated into claim 1 and has been modified to state that the sleeve material extends into and through the perforations in the armature. The language of claim 6 has been amended along the same lines. This portion of the 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2d paragraph rejection should be withdrawn.

The Claims

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of original claim 3, and additional language has been included to overcome the 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2d paragraph rejection of the original claim 3 language.

Finally turning to the merits of this case, U. S. Patent No. 2,257,025 is applied as a 35 U.S. C. § 102(b) reference to claim 1, however, an element of claim 1, as originally filed is nowhere present in '025: namely, there is nothing in '025 which teaches or suggests:

> ...said sleeve's said inside diameter being sized to promote non-bonding resistance slide-on/slide-off fitment of said armature-stabilized sleeve relative to the anvil roll's cylindrical surface.

'025 shows a cylindrical armature having a rubber coating, carried on a shaft, and supported on the shaft by endplates: There is nothing even remotely close to the sleeve's [the rubber portion] ID being sized to promote non-bonding resistance slide-on/slide-off fitment on the anvil roll [shaft]. The inner rubber portion of '025 comes nowhere close to the shaft, and is not used to hold the sleeve/armature on the anvil roll. This, in '025, is accomplished solely by the endplates. Claim 1 is clearly allowable over the applied art.

Claim 2 is allowable with its allowable parent claim.

Claim 4 is allowable over '025, under any statutory rejection. Claim 4 requires that, essentially, the thickness of the sleeve material on the outside of the armature is greater than that of the sleeve material on the inside of the armature. The Examiner has applied Fig. 2 of '025, however, there is no teaching nor suggestion that Fig. 2 is drawn to scale. Further, Fig. 2 includes the cloth bandage, which is removed prior to use of the roller of '025. Thus, the contention that claim 4 is anticipated by Fig. 2 of '025 is based on pure conjecture and assumption by the Examiner, and only after having applied the teachings of Applicant. Claim 4 is allowable over the applied art.

Claim 5 is allowable for the reasons applied to claim 4: there is no teaching in '025 as to the relative thicknesses of the rubber material on either side of the cylindrical structure. Certainly Fig. 2 does not show that there are equal portions of rubber on either side of the cylinder. Claim 5 is allowable over the applied art.

Claim 6 has been amended to overcome the 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2d paragraph rejection, and is allowable with its allowable parent claims.

Claim 7 is allowable with its allowable parent claim.

New claims 8 to 13 are allowable for the reasons set forth in connection with claims 1, 2 and 4 to 7, respectively.

In light of the foregoing amendment and remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejections and objections state in the Office action, and pass the application to allowance. If the Examiner has any questions regarding the amendment or remarks, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Provisional Request for Extension of time in Which to Respond

Should this response be deemed to be untimely, Applicants hereby request an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any over-payment to Account No. 22-0258.

Customer Number

56703

Respectfully Submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAILING

"Express Mail" Mailing Label No. EV713893907US
Date of Deposit - December 20, 2005

I hereby certify that the attached Response to Office Action under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111, and replacement drawings are being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to:

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Washington, D.C. 22313-1450

Robert D. Varitz

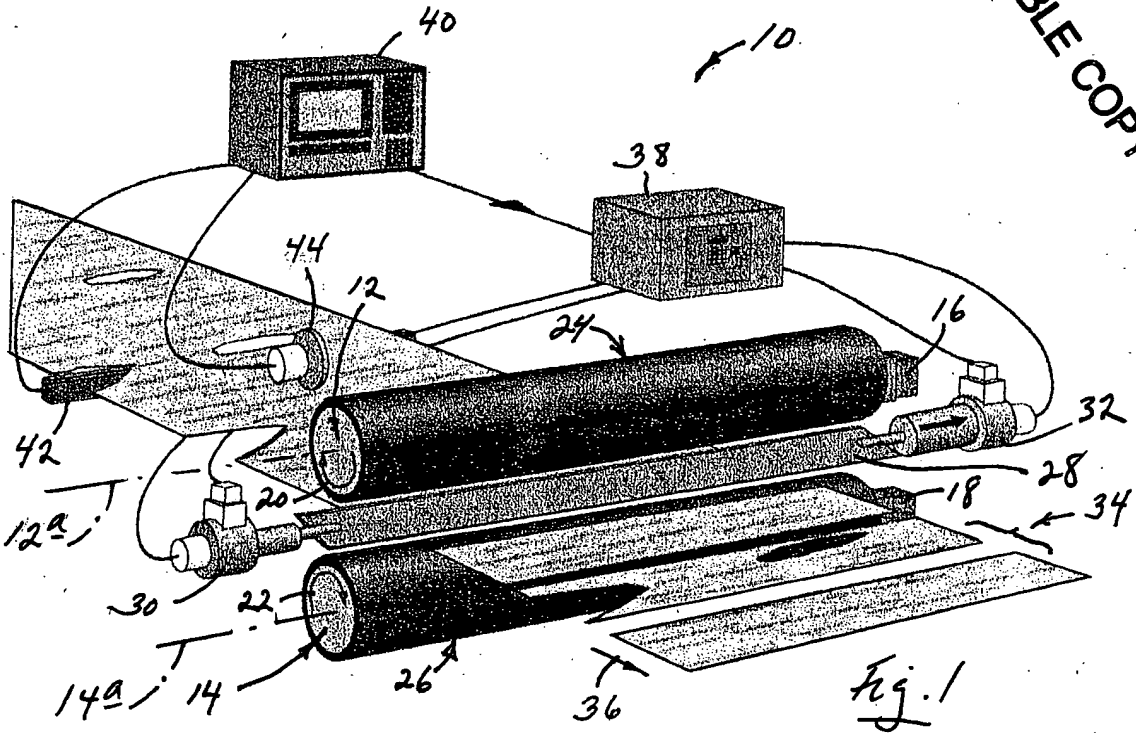

Fig. 1

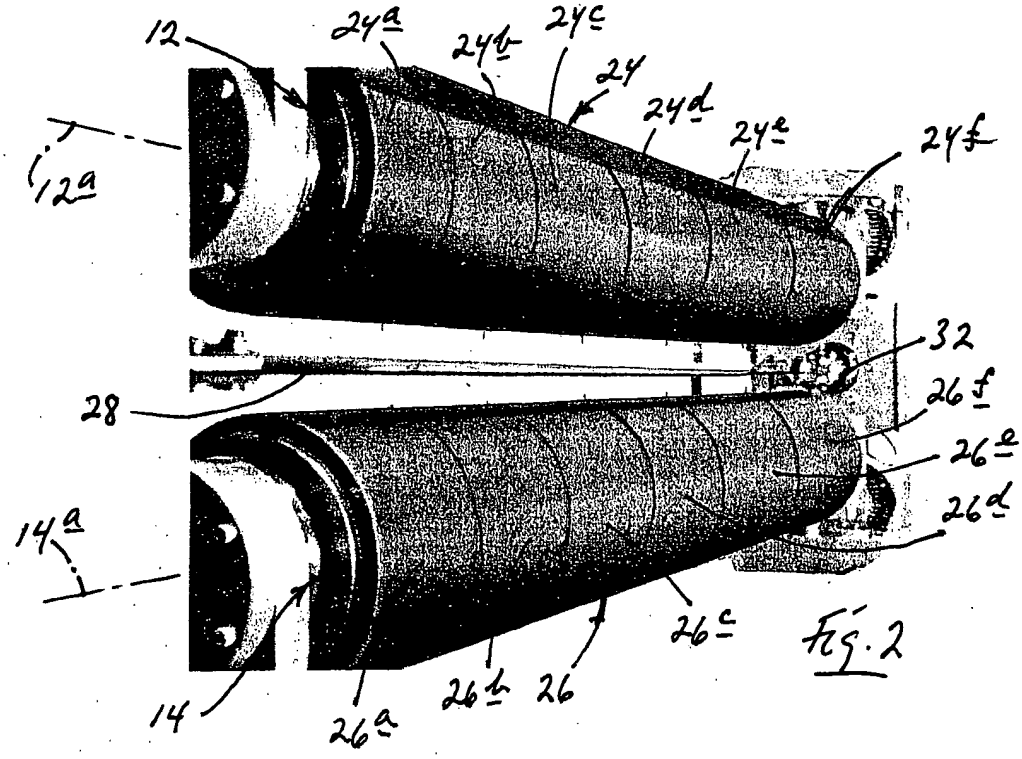

Fig. 2

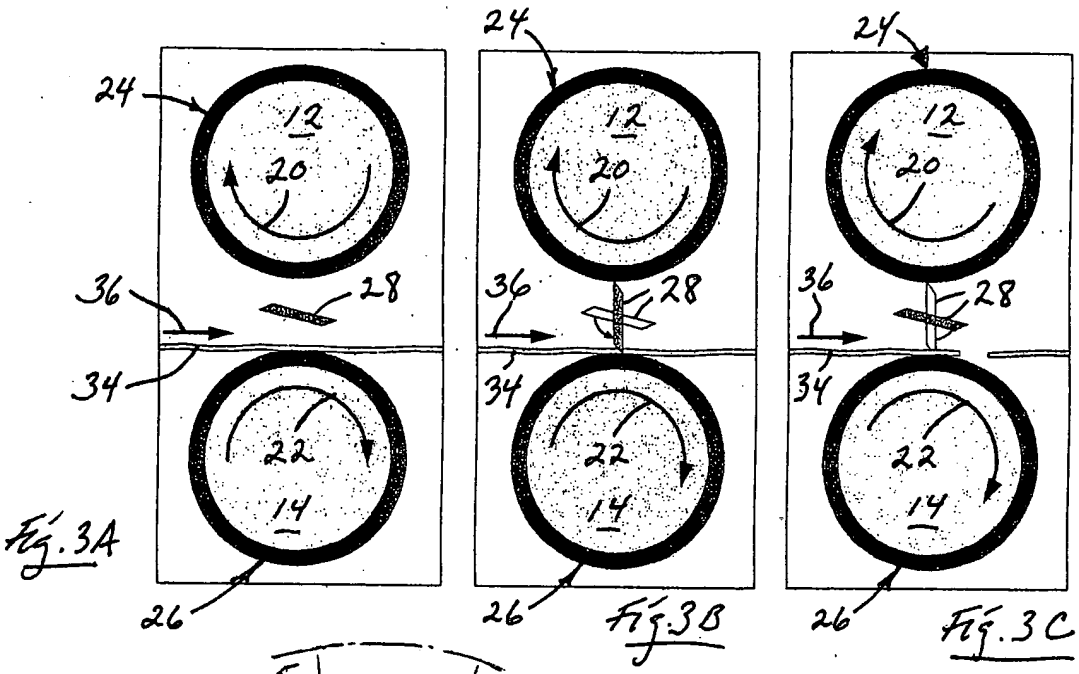

Fig. 3A Fig. 3B Fig. 3C

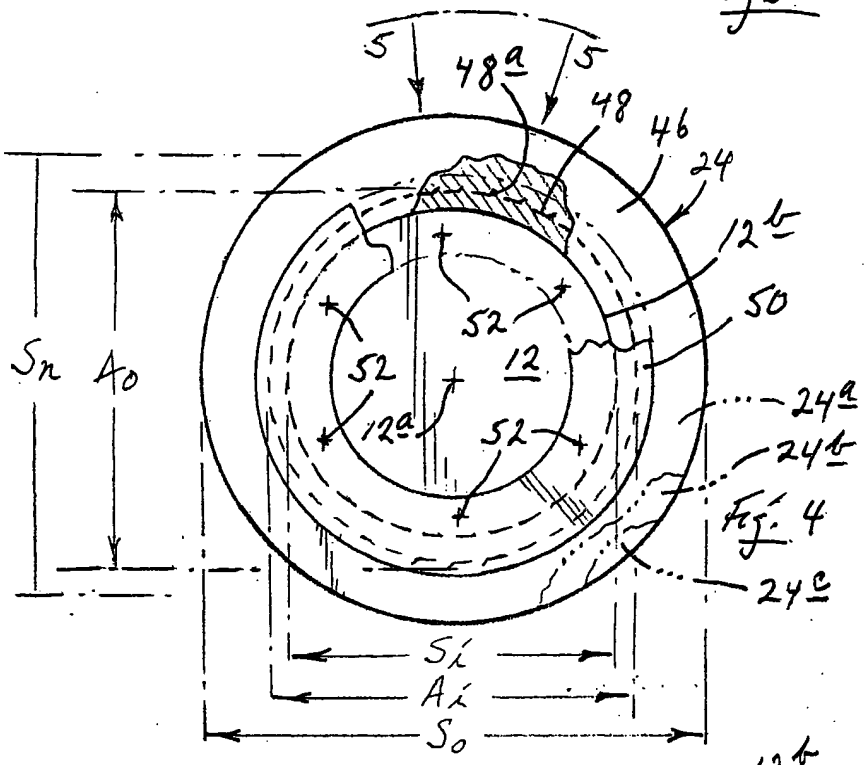

Fig. 4

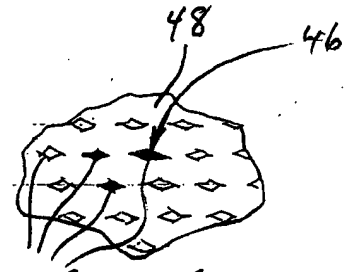

Fig. 5

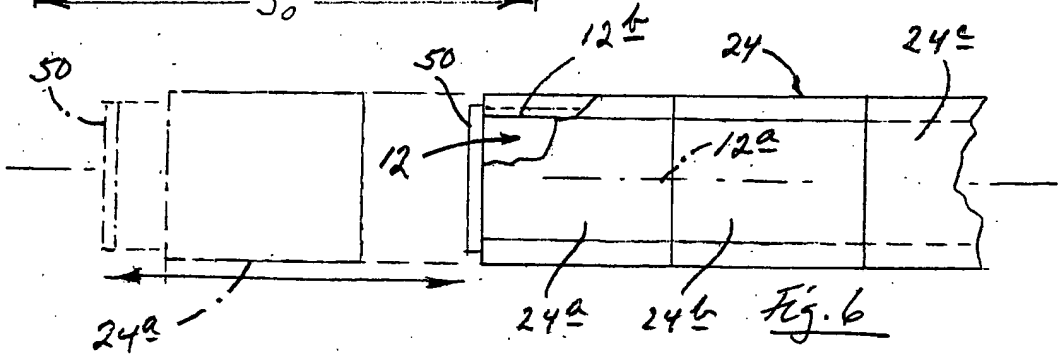

Fig. 6